

PREFACE

THIS book is an attempt to chronicle the chief incidents in the life of the late Emile Zola, and to set out the various aims he had in view at different periods of a career which •was one of the most strenuous the modern, world has known. Virtually all his work is enumerated in the following pages, •which, though some are given to argument and criticism, will be found crowded with facts. The result may not be very artistic, but it has been partially my object to show •what a tremendous worker Zola was, how incessantly, how stubbornly, he practised the gospel which he preached. An attempt has been made also to show the growth of humanitarian and reforming passions in his heart and mind, •which became so powerful at last that the "novelist" in Zola seemed as nothing. Yet I do not think I can be charged with having neglected the literary side of his career. It is that which bulks most largely in the present volume, and that I think is as it should be; for while Zola was certainly, and in some respects essentially, a reformer, the pen. was the weapon with which he strove to effect his purposes.

Designed more particularly for British and American readers, the book contains some passages which. I should have abbreviated — omitted perhaps — if I had been addressing a [French audience. And some subjects, which, in that case, I might have treated more fully, have here been dealt with briefly. For instance, though I have enumerated all the